Reduction of Army personnel in Jammu and Kashmir

12. SHRI M.A.M. RAMASWAMY:
SHRI R.S. GAVAI:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government propose to reduce the Army personnel in Jammu & Kashmir;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that terrorist violence in the State of Jammu and Kashmir has escalated; and

(d) if so, the reasons for reducing the soldiers in Jammu and Kashmir?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) After due deliberation on the security situation, the number of Army personnel in the State of Jammu and Kashmir are being reduced with effect from 17th November 2004. Details of units being de-inducted cannot be disclosed in view of national security considerations.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Steps to make Air Force more effective

13. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a comprehensive manpower down-sizing exercise has been undertaken recently in the Indian Air Force; and

(b) if so, the details thereof, including the steps initiated for institutional changes, if any, and for improving the man, machine and fire power ratio, for a more effective Air Force?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.